

Webb was strongly opposed to such an occupation.

Charley Reese, the very popular conservative columnist, wrote, again before the war: "Just let the United States try to occupy the Middle East, which will be the practical result of a war against Iraq, and Americans will be bled dry by the costs both in blood and treasure."

A few months ago, our own government took a poll and found that 92 percent of Iraqis regard us as occupiers rather than liberators. These people really do not appreciate what we have done for them. No one can legitimately criticize our troops, and I certainly would not. They are simply following orders and doing a great job. But when people say we made a mistake going in there but now that we are there we have to stay, we have to get the job done, that is like saying we know we are going the wrong way down the interstate, but we have to keep going anyway. I think you get off at the next exit.

We should announce to the world that we have done far more than any other nation has done for another country in the history of the world. We have spent almost \$200 billion, more than 90 percent of the money and casualties have been American, but we really cannot help any more until Iraqis stop killing our young soldiers and stop blowing each other up. That is what we should announce.

For those who say Iraq would go into chaos if we leave, they should read yesterday's Washington Post. The chaos is already there.

Columnist Georgie Anne put it best: "Critics of the war against Iraq have said since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely complacent about overseas wars being waged by a minority in their name, will inevitably come to a point where they will see they have to have a government that provides services at home or one that seeks empire across the globe."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn on the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY's) time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

IN PURSUIT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, Ohio Democrats took our moral values to the polls. For many of us, our faith guided us, too, and our final vote for President was far too close to declare us or assail us, as some now do, as a State full of evangelical fundamentalists. For many of us, moral values are grounded in our religious faith. My Lutheran upbringing instructs me, and my fellow Christians, in the teachings of Jesus, to read and to follow as best we can the words of the Beatitudes, to try to live our lives and practice our faiths as Jesus would have wanted us to. For others of us, those moral values take the form of a faith in our country's greatness to solve our most pressing problems of racial inequality and inaccessible health care, the poverty of millions of American children, and the war in Iraq.

For 3 years I have worn a lapel pin depicting a canary in a cage. A century ago, miners took a canary into the mines to warn them of toxic gases. Miners were forced to provide for their own protection. No mine safety laws. No trade unions able to help. No real support from their government.

A baby born 100 years ago had a life expectancy of about 47 years. Today, because of public health initiatives, worker safety laws, Medicare and Social Security, we live decades longer. Every bit of progress in the struggle for economic and social justice, often rooted in our Judeo-Christian beliefs, every bit of progress prevailed over the opposition of society's most privileged and most powerful.

Today, those struggles continue. Our fight for seniors who are forced to choose between medicine and food and our fight against the large pharmaceutical companies' greed is our understanding of the Holy Word. Our opposition to tax cuts for America's most privileged adults and Head Start cuts afflicting our least privileged children follow from the teachings of Christ. Our opposition to the death penalty, George Bush approved an execution of a Texan every 2 weeks as Governor, is grounded in the Scriptures. And our belief that government programs like Medicare and Social Security, not privatized imitations of them, should serve all Americans bespeaks a faith in the greatness of our country and its ability and willingness to lift up all of God's children.

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As we have seen over the last 4 years, Republicans campaign on their religious beliefs and on their moral values, mostly opposition to abortion and gay marriage; and then they govern for and with their corporate allies and contributors.

On this floor of the House of Representatives, in the light of day, we hear much talk about moral values. But in the committee rooms and the cloakrooms, choices are made that run

counter to the teachings of Christ and Mohammed and the Jewish prophets, and fly in the face of the values upon which this Nation was founded.

This Congress hurts families by underfunding Leave No Child Behind and college student loans, while giving tax cuts to the wealthiest among us. This Congress hurts the elderly by defeating legislation to bring down the price of prescription drugs and then passing a Medicare bill that further enriches the drug industry and insurance companies. This Congress hurts God's Earth when it caves to the energy and chemical companies. This Congress hurts our communities when it gives tax breaks to encourage the largest corporations, most of them big contributors to the Bush administration, to outsource our jobs. And this Congress hurts our grandchildren when it loads huge burdens of debt on future generations.

Tens of thousands of Ohioans worked feverishly for months to help change our Nation's course because of their moral values, because of their faith in God, because of their belief in our Nation's history of using the Biblical term "taking care of the least among us."

In no way do I question the faith of my political opponents. But I am weary of the far right's claim that they are the only ones guided by the hand of God. My understanding of the teachings of Christ and my religious upbringing call me to walk a different path and to express and act upon my faith in the cause of social and economic justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)